REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request consideration and entry of the above amendment before examination.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS SHOWING CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

11. (amended) An apparatus for positioning a closure device within a passage through tissue communicating with a body lumen, comprising:

an elongate member comprising a proximal end, a distal end, and a lumen extending between the proximal and distal ends defining a longitudinal axis;

a *clip deliverable from* ~~closure element associate with~~ the elongate member for sealing the passage; and

a locator member extending through the lumen, the locator member comprising a distal portion extending distally beyond the distal end of the elongate member, the distal portion comprising an elongate deflectable element comprising a proximal end and a distal end, and a control element coupled to ~~the distal end of~~ the deflectable element, the control element being movable *axially* ~~proximally~~ for causing an intermediate portion of the deflectable element to buckle substantially transversely with respect to the longitudinal axis.

16. (amended) The apparatus of claim 11, further comprising a housing slidably disposed on an exterior of the elongate member, the housing configured for releasably holding the ~~closure element~~*clip*, the housing being actuable for advancing the ~~closure element~~*clip* distally towards the distal end of the elongate member for deploying the ~~closure element~~*clip*.

27. (amended) A method for sealing a passage communicating with a body lumen using an elongate member comprising proximal and distal ends, and a closure element deployable from the distal end of the elongate member, the method comprising:

providing~~coupling~~ a locator member *coupled* to the elongate member such that a distal portion of the locator member extends distally beyond the distal end of the elongate member;

advancing the distal end of the elongate member through a patient's skin towards the body lumen via the passage until the distal portion of the locator member is located within the body lumen;

buckling a deflectable element on the distal portion of the locator member from an axial collapsed configuration to a transverse expanded configuration;

manipulating the elongate member until the deflectable element in the expanded configuration contacts a proximal wall of the body lumen, thereby providing a tactile indication of a location of the distal end of the elongate member relative to the body lumen; and

deploying the closure element from the distal end of the elongate member within the passage.

47. (amended) A method for sealing a passage communicating with a body lumen, the method comprising:

introducing a locator member into the passage until a distal portion of the locator member extends into the body lumen;

buckling a deflectable element on the distal portion of the locator member from a collapsed configuration to a transversely expanded configuration within the body lumen;

manipulating the locator member until the deflectable element in the expanded condition contacts a proximal wall of the body lumen; and

advancing a *clip* ~~closure deviceinto the passage~~ along the locator member until the *clip* ~~closure device~~ is disposed at a predetermined location relative to the distal portion of the locator member;

returning the distal portion *of the locator member* from the expanded condition to the collapsed configuration; and

withdrawing the locator member from the passage, leaving the clip in the passage.